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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Investment in non-residential building construction fell 1.9% in the first quarter of 2001.** BC was one of only three provinces to see a decline. Investment fell 16.6% in Newfoundland and was down 14.1% in Nova Scotia. The largest increase was seen in Prince Edward Island (+22.9%). Yukon (+5.4%), Quebec (+3.3%) and Ontario (+0.2%) also made gains. Overall, investment rose 0.7% across Canada.

Source Statistics Canada

- **The business conditions survey in BC showed a positive turnaround in April.** Of manufacturers surveyed, 22% stated that they expected the volume of production in the next three months to be higher than the previous three months. Seventeen percent stated that production would be lower and 62% estimated that production would be about the same. The balance of opinion was +5 up from -1 in April 2001. When asked about orders received, the balance of opinion was -5, with 13% of manufacturers stating that order numbers were on the rise while 18% thought orders were declining. Most manufacturers thought finished product inventories were about right (73%) or too high (21%) in April, yielding a balance of opinion of 15. The balance was 36 in April 2001 when 40% of manufacturing firms thought that finished product inventories were too high. Few firms (6%) thought the backlog of unfilled orders was higher than normal, but 29% believed unfilled order numbers were below normal levels. According to most manufacturers, labour shortages are not a problem. Only 8% thought skilled labour shortages were a source of difficulties and none thought there was a shortage of unskilled labour.

Source Statistics Canada

- **Department store sales remained fairly flat (+0.3%, seasonally adjusted) in March after declining (-0.4%) in February.** Across the country sales slipped 0.4%. Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of consumers in BC who declared bankruptcy in March fell to 861 from 912 in March 2001.** Business bankruptcies increased 11.8% from 93 in March of last year to 104 in March 2002. Eighteen firms in manufacturing industries and 10 from construction industries declared bankruptcy. Total liabilities of firms that filed for bankruptcy were \$21.4 million.

Nationally, 908 businesses filed for bankruptcy, down from 1,002 in the same month of 2001. Declines were seen in Quebec (-32.6%), Manitoba (-22.9%), Ontario (-16.2%), and Saskatchewan (-14.6%).

Source Industry Canada

Indian Reserves

- **The number of people living on Indian reserves in BC increased 5.0% from 1996 to 2001.** The largest growth was seen on reserves in the Fraser-Fort George (+41.9%) and Fraser Valley (+24.0%) regional districts. Indian reserves in the Cowichan Valley saw a 13.8% decline in the number of people living on reserves.

Source: Statistics Canada and BC Stats

Horticulture

- **BC's horticulture industry harvested 28,800 acres, yielding 1.0 billion pounds of horticulture products with a value of \$814 million in 2000.** Greenhouse vegetables made up 24% of sales and floriculture products brought in 23%. The harvest area of floriculture products almost doubled, rising from 159 acres in 1999 to 309 acres in 2000. Mushroom sales reached \$53 million, a new record. Fresh mushrooms made

Did you know...

Canadians paid \$2.12 (US) for a Big Mac last year. Americans had to pay more at the golden arches, where the average price was \$2.49. The cheapest Big Mac was in Argentina at 78 cents. Swiss fast food fans had to dig more deeply into their pockets, forking over \$3.81 for a Big Mac.

up the majority (\$51 million) of the sales. The value of tree fruits produced in the province was \$46.7 million, with 96% coming from the Okanagan-Similkameen-Kootenay region. The value of production of berries and nuts fell 6% despite a small increase (+0.6%) in production weight.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Tourism

- **The Port of Vancouver is expecting 27 ships from 13 different cruise lines to visit the city during the 2002 cruise season.** A total of 348 sailings are scheduled, up from 331 last year. A new berth at Canada Place will help accommodate the traffic increase.

Source: Vancouver Port Authority

- **Passenger traffic at the Vancouver airport fell 9.2% in February, compared to the same month of 2001.** Traffic has been down every month since September. Domestic passenger traffic decreased 11.4% and trans-border traffic decreased 13.4%. All other international flights saw a 1.4% increase in passenger traffic.

Source: Vancouver Airport Authority

- **Statistics Canada estimates released this week suggest that tourism accounts for a bigger share of total economic activity in BC than in most other regions of the country.** In 1996 tourism accounted for 3.5% of BC's GDP. Yukon (4.8%) was the only region where tourism made up a bigger share of total economic activity. Prince Edward Island (3.1%) had the third biggest tourism sector. The Canadian average was 2.3%.

Accommodation and food and beverage industries accounted for 40% of total tourism GDP, while 28% was attributable to transportation industries. An average of \$38,900 of GDP was generated by each job in British Columbia's tourism sector.

BC's 1996 tourist trade balance was the highest in Canada, at +\$202 million. This was a result of a high inter-provincial tourism trade balance (+\$430 million) which outweighed a deficit (-\$228 million) in international tourism. PEI, with an overall surplus of +\$83 million, was also a net beneficiary of tourism activity. Ontario (-\$2,958

million) posted the largest tourism deficit.

Source: SC 13F0063XIE

Mothers and Work

- **Women who put off having children earned at least 6% more in 1998 than those who had children early in life.** A key factor in this is time spent working. Mothers who delayed childbearing spent 80% of their career time working as opposed to mothers who had children early who spent 68% of their career time working.

Source: SC 11F0019MIE

The Nation

- **Canadian gross domestic product rose 0.5% in February to continue four months of growth.** Goods producing industries provided the driving force behind this (+1.5%). Manufacturing (+2.3%) and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (+2.4%) were top performers in the goods sector. Performance in service industries was unchanged (0.0%). Arts, entertainment and recreation (-5.7%) saw the largest decline and transportation and warehousing (+0.7%) had the biggest increase.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The industrial product price index showed a 1.2% decline in manufacturer's prices in March compared to March 2001.** This was the sixth consecutive monthly decline. Prices of pulp and paper products were down 13.8%. Lumber, sawmill and other wood products saw an 11.0% increase in their prices.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The raw materials price index fell 7.0% in March, compared to March 2001.** Wood prices decreased 14.1% and mineral fuel prices were down 10.1%. When mineral fuel prices are excluded, the index shows a 4.5% decline. Vegetable product prices rose 9.1% and ferrous materials gained 4.0%.

Source: Statistics Canada

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Indian Reserves in British Columbia

The population of Indian reserves in the province, consisting of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, is of general interest but also of more specific interest in light of the current focus on Aboriginal issues. Information from the 2001 Census on the total population and the number of dwellings on Indian reserves provides our most current count of this component of the provincial population, with socio-economic characteristics to follow over the next year.

Since 1981, Statistics Canada has recorded Indian reserves as geographically distinct individual census subdivisions (CSDs). According to the 2001 Census, British Columbia had 487 Indian reserve CSDs, three Indian settlements (S-Es) and one Indian Government District (IGD). There were also five Nisga'a villages, which had previously been classified as Indian reserves, plus the area surrounding these villages. Many of the almost 500 Indian reserves have very small populations, including some with no population. For purposes of the census, only Indian reserves which are likely to have permanent population are identified, while the many other unpopulated Indian reserves in the province are excluded.

When using Indian reserve population statistics, it is important to note that not all persons residing on reserves are Aboriginal peoples—in 1996 only two-thirds of persons living on reserves in B.C. were of Aboriginal identity. Also the majority of Aboriginal people do not live on reserves—70% of the people reporting Aboriginal identity in the 1996 Census were not living on Indian reserves. Comparable information from the 2001 Census will be available in early 2003.

Provincial Population Living on Indian Reserves

In 2001, only three Indian reserves in B.C. were incompletely enumerated because of the refusal of some residents to participate in the Census. This is an improvement over the 19 incompletely enumerated reserves in the 1996 Census and 18 reserves in the 1991 Census. One reserve in the Capital Regional District has not participated in the last four censuses.

The 2001 incompletely enumerated population living on B.C. Indian reserves was estimated to be around 200 persons, compared to an estimated 2,350 in 1996.

The population residing on B.C. Indian reserves in 2001 was 68,235, including the estimate for the unenumerated reserves. This represented an increase of 5.0% since 1996. The growth in the reserve population was virtually the same as the growth in the total provincial population over the five-year period.

More than one-third (24,715) of those living on Indian reserves in 2001 resided on large reserves in urban areas. According to the 1996 Census, less than one quarter of the people on the urban reserves were Aboriginal. The population of the urban reserves grew by 7.6% between 1996 and 2001, more than twice the rate of growth of the rural reserves (3.6%).

Regional Districts

According to the 2001 Census, the Central Okanagan Regional District had 7,857 people living on Indian reserves, the greatest number of any regional district. Kitimat-

Stikine Regional District had the second largest number of people (7,126) living on Indian reserves but the ethnic characteristics of the two areas are quite different. The 1996 Census indicated that in Kitimat-Stikine, 96% of the people living on Indian reserves were of Aboriginal identity, as compared to only 8% in Central Okanagan.

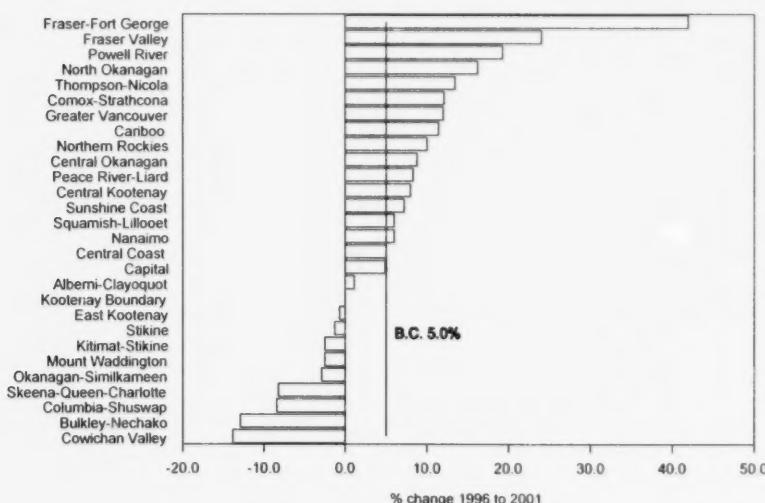
In terms of growth between 1996 and 2001 in the population living on Indian reserves, the Fraser-Fort George Regional District had the largest increase at 41.9%, although its Aboriginal population is very small. Fraser Valley (24.0%), Powell River (19.2%) and North Okanagan (16.2%) regional districts had the next strongest growth over the five-year period.

Nine regional districts experienced declines in the population living on Indian reserves between 1996 and 2001. Cowichan Valley (-13.8%) and Bulkley-Nechako (-12.9%) regional districts recorded double-digit declines, while Columbia-Shuswap (-8.4%) and Skeena-Queen Charlotte (-8.2%) re-

gional districts also had fairly large decreases. A table of the population of Indian reserves, including the estimates for the incompletely enumerated reserves, is available in the 2001 Census section of the BC Stats web site (<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca>).

Forthcoming 2001 Census releases over the next year will provide additional information on the social and economic characteristics of the population residing on Indian reserves that have 50 or more people. The release of Aboriginal information is scheduled for January 2003. In addition to the information from the 2001 Census, a sample of the Aboriginal population was selected using the 2001 Census responses and an extensive survey was carried out. The results of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey are expected to be released by Statistics Canada in summer 2003 and will provide a detailed profile of the Aboriginal population. A similar post-censal survey of Aboriginal peoples was last carried out after the 1991 Census.

Between 1996 and 2001, the population of the 62 Indian reserves in Fraser Valley increased by 24% to 5,500 persons.



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**British Columbia Indian Reserve Census Figures
Including Estimates for Unenumerated Reserves**

Regional District	Census Population		% Change 1996-2001		Private Dwellings 2001 (2)	Land Area Square km 2001	Population/ Square km 2001
	1996 (1)	2001	Reserves	Total RD			
Alberni-Clayoquot	1,710	1,729	1 1	-4 1	567	19 53	88 5
Bulkley-Nechako	3,449	3,005	-12 9	-1 9	1,063	97 97	30 7
Capital	4,501 (3)	4,724 (4)	4 9	2 4	2,050	15 53	304 1
Cariboo	2,746 (3)	3,058	11 4	-1 2	983	285 86	10 7
Central Coast	2150	2258	5 0	-3 6	732	27 68	81 6
Central Kootenay	113	122	8 0	-1 9	51	7 78	15 7
Central Okanagan	7,221	7,857	8 8	8 2	3,800	11 88	661 3
Columbia-Shuswap	793	726	-8 4	0 2	496	84 54	8 6
Comox-Strathcona	1,235 (3)	1,385	12 1	-1 6	474	17 13	80 8
Cowichan Valley	3,111	2,681	-13 8	1 4	818	59 50	45 1
East Kootenay	598	594	-0 7	-0 1	352	160 44	3 7
Fraser-Fort George	124	176	41 9	-3 7	72	6 67	26 4
Fraser Valley	4,432 (3)	5,495	24 0	6 8	2,102	94 93	57 9
Greater Vancouver	5,841 (3)	6,543	12 0	8 5	3,137	14 96	437 4
Kitimat-Stikine	7,307	7,126	-2 5	-6 3	2,382	2,083 61	3 4
Mount Waddington	1,766 (3)	1,722	-2 5	-10 2	613	45 67	37 7
Nanaimo	686	727	6 0	4 3	254	4 08	178 3
North Okanagan	2,130	2,474	16 2	2 3	1,625	113 46	21 8
Northern Rockies	450	495	10 0	-2 3	163	86 56	5 7
Okanagan-Similkameen	1,781 (3)	1,729	-2 9	0 9	845	366 26	4 7
Peace River-Liard	932	1,009	8 3	-2 5	298	130 53	7 7
Powell River	598	713	19 2	-0 9	292	17 34	41 1
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	3,012	2,765	-8 2	-12 5	1,109	164 60	16 8
Squamish-Lillooet	2,514 (3)	2,666 (4)	6 0	12 3	917	141 35	18 9
Stikine	390	385	-1 3	-5 5	184	21 58	17 8
Sunshine Coast	764	819	7 2	2 7	405	10 87	75 4
Thompson-Nicola	4,628	5,252 (4)	13 5	0 4	2,032	644 55	8 1
British Columbia	64,982 (3)	68,235 (4)	5 0	4 9	27,822	4,734.85	25 7

Source: Census figures: Statistics Canada - 1996 and 2001 Census of Canada
 Estimates: BC STATS.

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Notes: (1) 1996 Census population figures are based on 2001 boundaries.

(2) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings.

(3) Provincial, Regional District and Reserve populations for 1996 include estimates of the population of Indian Reserves that were incompletely enumerated in the 1996 Census.

(4) Provincial, Regional District and Reserve populations for 2001 include estimates of the population of Indian Reserves that were incompletely enumerated in the 2001 Census.



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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		Jan 1/01	% change on one year ago
BC		4,108.0	0.9
Canada		31,185.8	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago	
(BC - at market prices)		2001	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		130,396	2.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)		125,534	0.9
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)		30,648	-0.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)		19,177	0.8
TRADE (\$ millions)		% change on one year ago	
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Feb		2,801	-5.6
Merchandise Exports (raw) Feb		2,145	-23.2
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Feb		3,320	6.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago	
(all items - 1992=100)		Mar '02	
BC		116.6	2.9
Canada		117.7	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on one year ago	
(seasonally adjusted)		Mar '02	
Labour Force - BC		2,131	1.0
Employed - BC		1,940	-1.6
Unemployed - BC		191	37.6
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		Mar '01	
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		9.0	6.6
7.7		7.0	
INTEREST RATES (percent)		May 1/02	May 2/01
Prime Business Rate		4.00	6.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		5.40	6.80
- 5 year		7.45	7.50
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		May 1/02	May 2/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$		1.5579	1.5309
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)		0.6407	0.6526
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago	
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		Mar '02	
BC		663.44	2.0
Canada		647.71	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate, Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

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